

ARMY AND NAVY CHRONICLE.

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Congressional Documents.

SURVEY—BEAUFORT AND WILMINGTON, N. C., NAVY YARD.

Letter from the Secretary of the Navy, transmitting Reports of the surveys of the harbors of Beaufort and Wilmington, N. C., with a view to the establishment of a Navy Yard, under act of Congress of 3d March, 1837.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,
January 16, 1840.

SIR: I have the honor to enclose, herewith, copies of the reports of Lieut. James Glynn, of the Navy, who was charged with the survey and examination of the harbors of Beaufort and Wilmington, in the State of North Carolina, with a view to determine the respective facilities and advantages for the establishment of a navy yard, as directed by the act of the 3d March, 1837, making appropriations for the naval service; and to transmit charts of these harbors, prepared under the superintendence of that officer.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. K. PAULDING.

The honorable the SPEAKER
of the House of Representatives.

UNITED STATES BRIG CONSORT,
New York, Dec. 10, 1839.

SIR: You ordered me to survey the harbor of Wilmington, N. C., with a view to determine its fitness for a naval depot.

As the town of Wilmington is situated thirty miles up the Cape Fear river, and there is no part of the river that can be considered the harbor in particular, it appeared necessary to survey the whole distance to the sea. I have the honor to submit, herewith, two sheets of this survey; one containing about ten miles of the mouth of the river, including all its channels, bars, &c.; the other, a sheet of the remaining portion up to the town. The mathematical part of the survey is complete; in some important respects the sheets are not finished as they would have been, had time permitted; if desirable it can be done when more at leisure. The proper mouth of the Cape Fear river has two channels, separated by an extensive shoal. Through the eastern channel I found 8 feet of water, and 9 feet in the western channel. New inlet has 10 feet of water.

The soundings have been reduced, in every instance, to the common level of the lowest tide observed near the different positions. The bars are of hard sand and very irregular; the water breaks upon them in particular states of the wind and tide. The channels are probably changing in direction and depth of water. The shore line has been known to alter some feet in a single tide or a blow.

| | feet. in. |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| At New inlet— | |
| The highest tide observed was | 7 1.2 |
| The lowest tide observed was | 2 |
| The extreme range observed was | 5 1.2 |
| Of 14 high tides the mean was | 6 4.1 |
| Of 14 low tides the mean was | 2 4.4 |
| Mean average range of tide | 3 11.7 |

| | feet. in. |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| At Smithville— | |
| The highest tide observed was | 7 7.2 |
| The lowest tide observed was | 1 |
| The extreme range was | 6 7.2 |
| Of 46 high tides the mean was | 6 3.1 |
| Of 47 low tides the mean was | 1 8.8 |
| Mean average range of tide | 4 6.3 |

Variation 1° 35' easterly. High water, on full and change of the moon, 6 o'clock.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
JAMES GLYNN,
Lieutenant Commanding.

Hon. J. K. PAULDING,
Secretary of the Navy.

UNITED STATES BRIG CONSORT,
New York, Dec. 9, 1839.

SIR: Agreeably to your orders, I have surveyed the harbor of Beaufort, N. C., with a view to determine its fitness for a naval depot. I have the honor to transmit, herewith, a chart, the result of my examination.

The bar, or shoalest water necessary to pass, in running for Beaufort, lies about three-fourths of a mile off the nearest shore. From the bar the channel runs northwesterly, and is bounded on each side by a straight and regular range of sand banks, upon which the water is generally breaking. These breakers form a convenient guide for running in. Upon the bar I found 15 feet of water, when reduced to the level of the lowest tides observed during the survey. The bottom here, and generally in the channel, till up with the points of land that form the entrance of the harbor, is of hard sand and mud.

The high-water line washes a beach of fine sand or broken shells, and the salt-marsh formation, common to the inlets from the sea on the Atlantic coast of the United States. At low water, extensive flats of sand and oyster beds are left bare.

The mouth of the harbor is moving westward. There are now 7 feet of water, at low tide, upon the site of a fortification that existed twenty-five years since, for the defence of the passage. As the causes appear permanent, these changes will probably continue to take place, but it is not probable that they will diminish the depth of water upon the bar, or in the channel, unless the attempts at present making to improve the inland navigation, in the neighborhood of Ocracoke inlet, should divert a portion of the water that has hitherto passed through Beaufort inlet.

The tides are irregular in duration, ebb and flood running from 4 to 8 hours.

| | feet. in. |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| The highest tides were | 8 |
| The lowest tides were | 3 3.6 |
| The extreme range was | 4 8.4 |
| The mean of 113 high tides was | 6 10.3 |
| The mean of 114 low tides was | 4 3.2 |
| The average range was | 2 7.1 |

The time of high water, on the days of the full and change of the moon, is 6 hours 52 minutes. Variation 1° 4' 10" east.

Should it be necessary to publish the chart, it would be desirable to return it to the original surveyors, that it may be finished with the usual topographical illustrations, &c., &c., which the want of time has prevented being applied to the sheet submitted.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
JAMES GLYNN,
Lieutenant Commanding.

Hon. J. K. PAULDING,
Secretary of the Navy.

A BILL, to make new provisions respecting Navy Pensions, and to repeal certain acts relating to Navy Pensions.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, from and after the passage of this act, Navy Pensions may be allowed and granted for the fol-

lowing causes, and for no other, to wit: to any officer, seaman, or marine, belonging to the naval service, and to the revenue cutter service of the United States, while co-operating with the navy by order of the President, who has been, or may be, disabled by wounds, or from accidents and exposures while in the actual performance of his duty, a pension according to the nature and degree of disability, not to exceed half the monthly pay of such officer, seaman, or marine, to commence when the proof establishing the claim shall be completed, and to continue so long as the disability shall remain.

And to the widow, and if no widow, to the child, or children, under sixteen years of age, of any officer, seaman, or marine, in the naval service, and of any officer or seaman in the revenue cutter service while co-operating with the navy by order of the President, who have been, or may be killed in battle, or who have died, or may die of wounds, or through accidents occurring while in the actual performance of their duty, a pension, for five years only, of half the monthly pay to which the deceased was entitled at the time of his death; but in case of the death or intermarriage of such widow before the expiration of said five years, the half pay for the remainder of the term shall go to the child or children of such deceased officer, seaman, or marine, under sixteen years of age, provided that such half pay shall cease on the death of such child or children, or on their attaining the age of sixteen years; and all pensions under this act shall be paid out of the navy pension fund.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That all pensions now established, for either of the aforesaid causes, shall be continued without further proof until the disability of the person pensioned shall cease, and until the widow and children of each officer, seaman, or marine killed in battle, or who died of wounds received in the line of duty, shall have had the benefit of a pension equal to that provided for in the first section of this act, and no longer.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the act entitled "An act for the more equitable administration of the navy pension fund," passed the third day of March, eighteen hundred and thirty-seven, and all other acts, and parts of acts, relating to navy pensions, so far as they are inconsistent with the provisions of this act, be, and the same are hereby, repealed; and that from and after the thirtieth day of June next, all pensions granted under said acts, or either of them, except so far as provided for in the second section of this act, shall cease and become void; and it shall not be lawful for any officer of the Government to pay any claim for a pension accruing thereafter under any of said acts, except as provided for in the second section of this act.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That from and after the thirtieth day of June next, no pension for disability shall be paid to any officer, seaman, or marine, shall be employed in the service of the United States, or in the receipt of any pay or emoluments whatsoever from the United States.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That in all cases of application for the payment of pensions to invalids, accruing after the first day of July next, the affidavit of two surgeons or physicians, whose credibility, as such, shall be certified by the magistrate before whom the affidavit is made, stating the continuance of the disability for which the pension was originally granted, (describing it) and the rate of such disability at the time of making the affidavit, shall accompany the application for the first payment, which shall be due after said first day of July next, and at the end of every three years thereafter, and if the disability be stated at a rate below that for which the pension was originally granted, the applicant shall only be paid at the rate of disability stated in the affidavit: *Provided*, That where the pension shall have been granted for a total disability, in consequence of the loss of a limb, or other cause

which cannot be removed, in whole or in part, the above affidavit shall not be required.

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That the amount of pension to which any invalid pensioner, and to which the widow or children of any deceased officer, seaman, or marine, may be entitled under the provisions of this act, shall be regulated according to the pay proper of the navy, as it was on the first day of January, eighteen hundred and thirty-five, exclusive of emoluments, and based upon the lineal rank of the officers respectively.

Mr. Benton, from the Committee on Military Affairs, to which were referred the memorials on the subject of employing bloodhounds in the Florida war, presented the following communication from the Secretary of War, and the Committee was discharged from the further consideration of the subject.

THE BLOODHOUNDS.

WAR DEPARTMENT,

February 17, 1840.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th instant, transmitting from the Committee on Military Affairs a number of memorials against the employment of bloodhounds in the present war with the Indians in Florida, for such answer thereto as the occasion may require from the Executive branch of the Government. As I have had occasion to answer similar inquiries made by a member of the House of Representatives, I beg leave to transmit to the committee a copy of that communication, which in part furnishes the information required.

There can be no doubt, from the respectable character of the memorialists, that they are animated by humane motives in remonstrating against the use of these dogs; but it is equally certain that they are deceived when they suppose that their employment will degrade the character of the country, or render its officers obnoxious to the charge of cruelty. It was doubtless the intention of the authorities of Florida, when they imported the bloodhounds, to use them as guides to discover the lurking places of the Indians, not, as has been erroneously believed, to worry or destroy them; and this Department has given positive instructions to that effect, if they should be employed by any officers in the service of the Government, as will be seen by the accompanying copy of a letter to the commanding General in Florida. The Government was not consulted on the subject of the importation of these dogs by the Governor and Council of Florida, and was ignorant of the transaction until after their arrival in the Territory; but this Department did not feel itself justified in forbidding their use. The inhabitants of Florida have been cruelly harassed, and all their efforts, and those of our troops, have hitherto proved unavailing to protect their families from the murderous assaults of the savages. If they believe that this cannot be effected but by the superior sagacity of these dogs, it would be inhuman to prevent them from making use of what they regard as the only means of saving their wives and children from the tomahawk and scalping knife.

I beg leave to transmit herewith a copy of a letter from A. L. Magenis, Esq., of St. Louis, which contains his impressions respecting the object for which these dogs were procured, and the manner in which they are to be used, derived during a short stay which he was obliged to make in Tallahassee about the time the dogs arrived in Florida.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,
J. R. POINSETT.

HON. THOMAS H. BENTON,
Chairman Committee on Military Affairs.

WASHINGTON CITY, Feb. 8, 1840.

DEAR SIR: In compliance with your request that I would communicate in writing what I had previously mentioned in conversation, as having heard while passing through Florida, on my way here, respecting the bloodhounds recently brought there from Cuba, and the purpose for which they were procured, I beg leave to state that, on the 6th ult. during a sojourn of two or three days at Tallahassee, while paying a visit at the

residence of the present Governor, a gentleman entered the parlor who was introduced as Col. Fitzpatrick, and who informed Governor Reid that he had just arrived from Cuba with a number of bloodhounds, to obtain which he had been despatched, as I understood him, under authority from ex-Governor Call, and the Legislature of Florida. Col. Fitzpatrick spoke of the difficulties which he had in getting those dogs, thirty-three in number; the high price paid for them, and the great trouble arising from boisterous weather and scarcity of provisions, owing to the voyage being of unusual length, in bringing them over: he expressed a desire that Governor Reid should give immediate instructions to have them taken from on board the vessel, then lying at Port Leon, or St. Marks, as they were very much reduced and feeble from want of proper food, and put in some fit place, under the charge of five Spaniards, whom he had hired in Cuba as their keepers, and who were the only persons capable of properly managing them. A good deal was said as to the manner in which they were to be used in operating against the Indians; and I believe, as well as I can recollect, and my recollection is pretty distinct, Col. Fitzpatrick, who appeared most conversant with the mode of keeping and using them, observed that they were always muzzled, unless when being fed; that when employed, in order to discover a hiding or retreating enemy, a keeper was appointed to each dog, to hold him in a leash, and endeavor to put him on the scent, which, once found, he rarely lost; the pursuers following close up to the keeper, and were thus conducted to the objects of their search.

The dogs were described by Col. Fitzpatrick as possessing fine wind, great strength, bottom and courage, and as differing from the common hound in one particular, which made them of infinite service in the chase of a lurking enemy; they rarely or never gave tongue to warn him of the approach of his pursuers. I was not led to believe from any thing which I heard on the occasion alluded to, or, indeed, at any other time during my journey through Florida, that those dogs were to be unmuzzled and let slip to assail the hostile marauding Indian warriors, and destroy their women and children. I am persuaded that the people of Florida, dreadfully as they had suffered from the ferocity of the Indians, would not countenance such a species of warfare.

Col. Fitzpatrick, who I have since learned, is an officer of the Florida militia, struck me as being a gentleman of great intelligence and decided character.

I have the honor to be, &c.

ARTHUR L. MAGENIS.

To the Hon. Mr. POINSETT,
Secretary of War.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

December 27, 1839.

SIR: I have received several communications from various parts of the country, inquiring of me whether the Government or War Department, or commanding officer in the Florida war, had authorized or determined upon the employment or use of *bloodhounds* in the war against the Indians. The fact has been alluded to by the public prints, and, as a Representative of Virginia, I have presumed thus to inquire directly of the Department, and most respectfully request of you to give me, if proper, all the information you have on the subject, and oblige

Yours, most respectfully,

HENRY A. WISE.

Hon. J. R. POINSETT, Secretary of War.

WAR DEPARTMENT,

December 30, 1839.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th instant, inquiring into the truth of the assertion made by the public papers that the government had determined to use bloodhounds in the war against the Florida Indians, and beg to assure you that it will afford me great pleasure to give you all the information on this subject in possession of the Department.

From the time I first entered upon the duties of the War Department, I continued to receive letters from officers commanding in Florida, as well as from the most enlightened citizens of that Territory, urging the

employment of bloodhounds as the most efficient means of terminating the atrocities daily perpetrated by the Indians on the settlers in that Territory. To these proposals no answer was given, until, in the month of August, 1838, while at the Virginia Springs, there was referred to me from the Department a letter addressed to the Adjutant General, by the officer commanding the forces in Florida, General Taylor, to the following effect:

HEAD-QUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH,

Fort Brooke, July 28, 1838.

SIR: I have the honor to enclose you a communication, this moment received, on the subject of procuring bloodhounds from the island of Cuba to aid the army in its operations against the hostiles in Florida.

I am decidedly in favor of the measure, and beg leave again to urge it as the only measure of ridding the country of the Indians, who are now broken up into small parties that take shelter in swamps and hammocks as the army approaches, making it impossible for us to follow or overtake them without the aid of such auxiliaries.

Should this measure meet the approbation of the Department, and the necessary authority be granted, I will open a correspondence on the subject with Mr. Everston through Major Hunt, Assistant Quartermaster at Savannah, and will authorize him, if it can be done on reasonable terms, to employ a few dogs, with persons who understand their management.

I wish it distinctly understood that my object in employing dogs, is only to ascertain where the Indians can be found, not to worry them.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient serv't.

Z. TAYLOR,

Bt. Br. Gen. U. S. A. Commanding.

To Gen. R. JONES, Washington, D. C.

On this letter I endorsed the following decision, which was communicated to Gen. Taylor: "I have always been of opinion that dogs ought to be employed in this warfare to protect the army from surprises and ambuscades, and to track the Indian to his lurking place; but supposed, if the General believed them to be necessary, he would not hesitate to take measures to procure them. The cold-blooded and inhuman murders lately perpetrated upon helpless women and children by these ruthless savages, render it expedient that every possible means should be resorted to in order to protect the people of Florida, and to enable the United States forces to follow and capture, or destroy, the savage and unrelenting foe. General Taylor is therefore authorized to procure such number of dogs as he may judge necessary, it being expressly understood that they are to be employed to track and discover the Indians, not to worry or destroy them."

This is the only action or correspondence on the part of the Department that has ever taken place in relation to the matter. The General took no measures to carry into effect his own recommendation, and this Department has never since renewed the subject. I continue, however, to entertain the opinion expressed in the above decision. I do not believe that description of dog, called the bloodhound, necessary to prevent surprise or track the Indian murderer; but I still think that every cabin, every military post, and every detachment, should be attended by dogs. That precaution might have saved Dade's command from massacre, and by giving timely warning, have prevented many of the cruel murders which have been committed by the Indians in Middle Florida. The only successful pursuit of Indian murderers that I know of, was on a late occasion, when the pursuers were aided by the sagacity of their dogs. These savages had approached a cabin of peaceful and industrious settlers so stealthily, that the first notice of their presence was given by a volley from their rifles thrust between the logs of the house; and the work of death was finished by tomahawking the women, after tearing from them their infant children, and dashing their brains out against the door posts. Are these ruthless savages to escape and repeat such scenes of blood because they can elude our fellow citizens in Florida, and our regular soldiers, and baffle their unaided efforts to overtake or discover them? On a late occasion, three estimable citizens were killed in the immediate neighborhood of St. Augustine, and one officer of distinguished merit

mortally wounded. It is in evidence that these murders were committed by two Indians, who, after shooting down the father and beating out the son's brains with the butts of their rifles, upon hearing the approach of the volunteers, retired a few yards into the woods, and secreted themselves until the troops returned to town with the dead bodies of those who had been thus inhumanly and wantonly butchered.

It is to be regretted that this corps had not been accompanied with one or two hunters, who, with their dogs, might have tracked the blood stained footsteps of these Indians; have restored to liberty the captive they were dragging away with them, and have prevented them from ever again repeating such atrocities. Nor could the severest casuist object to our fellow citizens in Florida resorting to such measures in order to protect the lives of their women and children.

Very respectfully, Your most ob't servant,

J. R. POINSETT.

Hon HENRY A WISE, House of Representatives.

WAR DEPARTMENT, Jan. 26, 18 40

SIR: It is understood by the Department, although not officially informed of the fact, that the authorities of the Territory of Florida have imported a pack of bloodhounds from the Island of Cuba; and I think it proper to direct, in the event of those dogs being employed by any officer or officers under your command, that their use be confined, altogether, to tracking the Indians; and in order to ensure this, and to prevent the possibility of their injuring any person whatsoever, that they be muzzled when in the field, and held with a leash while following the track of the enemy.

Very respectfully, your most ob't servant,

J. R. POINSETT.

Brig. Gen. Z. TAYLOR,

Commanding Army of the South, Florida.

From the Globe, February 17.

INDIAN MURDERS IN FLORIDA.—We publish to-day fresh instances of the wanton and cruel barbarities committed by the Indians of Florida; and while we are called upon daily to record their deeds of blood, the peaceable and quiet citizens of Philadelphia are signing memorials against the employment of bloodhounds to track these ruthless savages to their lurking places. "Dreadful (say these memorialists) as are the evils attendant upon a state of warfare, even in its most mitigated form, to aggravate them by the introduction of so barbarous and inhuman a measure, we view as an outrage upon every feeling of humanity, against which we are bound to protest." Deceived by sounding words, and the romance of history, the memorialists characterize as an outrage upon humanity, the use of dogs, to serve as guides in directing the pursuers to the dens of these savages, who glory and delight in blood. Are all the sympathies of the humane and generous to be lavished on the assassins who, with unsparing hand, destroy the aged parents, and wives and children of our fellow citizens in Florida? The inhabitants of Florida are not suffering the evils of a state of warfare in any form as it is understood by the memorialists and by all civilized communities. They are exposed to the attacks of prowling savages and midnight assassins, who fire their dwellings, and butcher indiscriminately their fathers and mothers, and wives and children. We should like to see less sympathy excited by words, and more by facts, which appeal strongly to the feelings. The Floridians are in truth entitled to the warmest sympathies of the humane and generous throughout the Union, while the savages of that Territory have, by their wanton barbarities, merited their just abhorrence. It would, in reality, be an outrage upon every feeling of humanity, to deprive the former of what they believe to be an effective means of protection, because their dogs, whose unerring sagacity will discover the hiding places of the Indians, are called bloodhounds, and were used in former times to overtake and hold at bay, or drive into trees, unarmed savages.

We understand that it is intended to hold these dogs by a leash when in the field, and to use them only as guides to follow the tracks of the Indians. To let them loose against the armed Seminole, would be only to send them to be shot or tomahawked. In a war between a body of Indians, armed with knives, tomahawks, and rifles—and dogs, we should think all the sympathies of the tender hearted should be on the side of the dogs.

THE TRUTH OF HISTORY.

Extracts from the annals of Jamaica, by the Rev. GEO. WILSON BRIDGES, A. M., vicar of the parish of St. Ann, Jamaica.

"In a lucky moment it was suggested to work upon the well known fears of the barbarians by the use of dogs. From Cuba was sought and obtained the assistance of habitual chasseurs, who, in the mountains of Besucal, and in their country's service, are employed, with their trained bloodhounds, in the pursuit of the numerous banditti which infest that island.

"The chasseurs arrived, the leashes of the hounds were never slipped, but the terror which their approach inspired, effected more than the arms of ten thousand warriors; and the maroons hastened to capitulate upon any terms. General Walpole had succeeded to the command of the troops, and the simple terms which he proposed were instantly acceded to by the deputies sent to treat.

"The Earl hastened to the spot, that he might ratify the terms; but the imaginary apprehensions of the maroons, who dreaded him almost as much as the hounds, the real difficulty of collecting their scattered body, and the time required by the ignorant barbarians to communicate the information to each other, detained them beyond the day appointed for their surrender. Impatient of the delay, for which he would listen to no excuse, the Lieutenant Governor again ordered the hounds into the woods, when the terrified rebels resigned themselves as speedily as they could reach his quarters; yet he made their temporary failure a plea to infringe the article of the treaty, by far the most important in their consideration, and with their six captains in confinement in St. Ann, they were all banished to Nova Scotia, where a succession of difficulties opposed their settlement, and they were finally removed to Sierra Leone."

NOTE.—These hounds are very similar to those of Mount St. Bernard, in the Alps, and are so trained as to pursue, but not to injure, the object of their search. When they overtake a fugitive, they make the woods echo with their hideous yell, guard him with a watchful eye, but touch him not, unless he attempt to move or resist. The following is an instance of their services in Cuba: A fleet from Jamaica, passing through the Gulf of Mexico, beat up on the north side of Cuba, when one of the ships, which was manned chiefly by Spanish renegadoes, was purposely run ashore by her piratical crew. All the British sailors on board were instantly murdered, and the assassins retired with their booty to the mountains, intending to penetrate through the woods to some remote settlement on the south side, where they hoped to secure their treasure, and elude pursuit. Early intelligence of the crime had, however, been conveyed to the Havana, and the murderers were pursued by a detachment of the Chasseurs del Rey, with their hounds. In a few days they were all brought in and executed; but not one of them was hurt by the dogs which captured them.

ST. JOSEPH, January 20.

INDIANS!—An express has just arrived (Tuesday morning) from Iola, with a letter from Mr. J. L. Smallwood, merchant of that place, stating that on Monday night the family of Mrs. Harlan, about six miles from Iola, were all murdered and the premises burnt, by a party of Indians, supposed to be about 20 in number. The citizens of that neighborhood were without arms or ammunition, and call for assistance.

The Indians will either remain in the Apalachicola swamps, or make for the eastern arm of St. Andrew's Bay. A company hence, under the command of Col. Fitzpatrick, has gone in pursuit of them.

APPALACHICOLA, (E. F.) *January 29, 1840.*

We this morning received the distressing intelligence that the family of Mr. Rowlett, at Rowlett's Mills, in this county, about thirty miles from this city, were massacred by a party of Indians just before sundown last evening. Mr. P. W. Rowlett and a mulatto man were shot down by the Indians before they had shown themselves. The Indians then approached the house, and the inmates were shot down in endeavoring to make their escape. Mrs. Hollis, a daughter of Mr. Daniel Rowlett, was seen to run some distance from the house before she fell. A negro man was shot near the house. One individual, a Mr. Robinson, we believe, who was near the premises, alone escaped to tell the story. The elder Mr. Rowlett, and one of his sons, were from home when the massacre took place.—*Gazette.*

Correspondence of the N. Y. Commercial Advertiser.

TALLAHASSEE, Feb. 2, 1840.

LATEST NEWS FROM FLORIDA—FIRST AND SUCCESSFUL OPERATION OF THE BLOOD-HOUNDS.—I have often asked in this Territory, of public men and of private citizens, when will the Indian war probably terminate? But I have never attained a satisfactory answer. Is it not strange that the combined efforts of the general and territorial governments to quell these savage disturbances, which have now been extended through four years, and at the immense expense of thirty millions of dollars, have failed to produce the desired results?

The fifth year and campaign have now half passed away, and its close, from all that I can ascertain, will leave the foe still unconquered. Gen. Taylor is now in the field, with several thousand U. S. troops. Besides these, three militia companies have been in service, under Florida officers, during the past year, defending the country between here and the Ocala river. Forts and military stations, 20 miles apart, have been arranged through the different sections of the country, and scouting parties of dragoons pass about in small divisions, protecting the inhabited neighborhoods, and searching out the enemy.

Notwithstanding all these efforts, the savage, secret foe constantly carries on his work of blood and death. In the past year it is estimated that not less than eighty individuals have been killed by the Indians in Florida, while only perhaps a dozen of their number have shared a similar fate. Middle Florida, it was hoped, had been relieved of the enemy; but this hope is proved fallacious. Within ten miles of this place houses were burned and families murdered last summer! In the last fortnight a baggage wagon, escorted by four United States soldiers, was attacked by from twenty to forty Indians near Rock Bluff, on the Apalachicola river; two of the number killed, one of the escort wounded, and the wagon plundered and burned.

Captain Bullock's dragoons are now in pursuit of the savages. Not a week since, Mr. Harlan's dwelling, on the same river, six miles from Iola, was approached, and himself and two children killed. On the same night a party of six Indians approached Rowlett's mills, 25 miles above Apalachicola, severely wounded a negro girl, and succeeded in carrying off a daughter of Mr. Rowlett. This is an extraordinary circumstance, and the first instance known in the Florida war of the Indians having carried off a female prisoner. Who can imagine the situation of the unfortunate girl, or realize the agonized feelings of her afflicted parents?

"Lo! the poor Indian!" I think, has been sung long enough. It is high time for that sentiment to cease, and I would exclaim "Lo! the poor white men!" as I behold the cruel butcheries of men, women and children, that have drenched this beautiful

land, and the midnight flames of their peaceful abodes, kindled by the same savage hands. I must confess that my ideas of Indian bravery and humanity have recently been very much lessened—at any rate as far as the Seminoles are concerned. They are well known to be deceitful, cowardly and treacherous. When Neomathla, that celebrated old warrior, was taken at an early period in the present contest, and sent to the West, he informed the United States officers, that "if he could have his way, he would cut the throats of every white man and white woman in Florida and Alabama." And he was esteemed the bravest of the brave.

Gen. Jackson in the Creek war offered \$100 for his head, and when Neomathla heard of it, he offered \$100 for the General's. This was all fair enough, but there is nothing equal or fair in their present mode of warfare. They always attack dwellings at night, and covered by silence and darkness, accomplish their deeds of rapine and bloodshed. The family will be butchered, their abode burned, and property plundered, hours before the melancholy tale can be told. And when told, the murderers are many miles distant, and their trail lost. To remedy this evil, the blood-hounds, about whose services so much has been said, were obtained from Cuba. They are used to trail Indians, and not to eat them. They are not cannibal blood-hounds, and sad experience demonstrates that these savages cannot be ferretted out without their aid; thirty of them are in the field with five Spanish trainers and Major Bailey, the well known Indian hunter. With the exception of a shorter neck, and a more flattened nose, they resemble our ordinary hound, and are equally innocent looking. These dogs have been procured by the territorial, not by the general Government, and for territorial troops. When a trail is discovered, the hounds are put on it, and the dragoons follow until the enemy is overtaken. Nor is it known how the Indians in their predatory excursions can be found out among the hammocks, swamps and everglades of a country like this, without such aid. I was at St. Marks a few days ago, in which neighborhood the hounds were kept, and was informed that they would probably answer the object for which they were obtained.

G. P. D.

POSTSCRIPT.—Feb. 5.—A report has just reached town, that Major Bailey, with six hounds, had fallen upon an Indian trail, which led to a camp of forty, four of whom were killed, and the rest ran off, leaving their moccasins, &c. behind. One dog was killed by the Indians, and the scouting party was still following the trail. This is the most important battle that has taken place in a long time.

BLOOD HOUNDS.—We extract the following from the National Gazette of Philadelphia, not that we approve the use of blood hounds to make war on the Seminoles, but to show that we have, in our parent land, a discreditable blot on her policy as a precedent, which some may use to justify the commission sent by the Governor of Florida, to Cuba, to procure the species of warlike implements in question. The southern planters, it is well known, and the slave States generally, have never adopted this cruel alternative towards runaway slaves. Hence, while that population are in the enjoyment of greater comforts, as their robustness and longevity and cheerfulness prove, than the *white slaves* of the English factories and Russian nobles, we see with horror that this dog-tactics is still in use in the benighted West India colonies of Spain. In Cuba, every plantation has them. They are of the breed of the *bull-dog*, only of a blueish-black hide, like the elephant, perfectly destitute of hair, and of a ferocity indomitable, even to those who have brought them up and caressed them. They are consequently obliged to be chained; and what, besides this, adds to their savage character, is that they are purposely fed, exclusively on meat. We remember a favorite old dog of this description, in the

West Indies, whom none dared approach but "Old Black Harry," his keeper, who, however, one day, presuming too much on the influence he imagined he possessed, like Van Amburgh and his tamed tigers, paid for his temerity by the fierce rascal, while being patted, jumping furiously upon the negro, and biting out, as though cut by a surgeon's knife, the entire corner of his mouth. In the interior of Cuba we at times meet with them under the charge of their keepers, darting here and there among the bushes and ravines in search of runaway slaves. They seize but do not destroy their prey; and we imagine the deadly aim of the Seminole rifle, blazing from concealed hammock or everglade, would laugh to scorn this new experiment, at once preposterous and cruel, and make quick despatch of all the dogs and negro trainers that our wise government may import, to do what the most accomplished tactics of military armaments, it seems, can never achieve.—*N. Y. Star.*

The recurrence to this subject in Congress, calls to mind a passage which met our eye in reading a History of the United States, by James Graham, Esq. published in London in 1836, and not yet issued in this country. In that work we find that the Executive of this country is not without a cruel precedent in the matter. The British government long ago actually resorted to the same means to carry on its warfare against the Indians in this country. We extract the passage, as it may be novel to many:

"After the conclusion of the war with the Cherokees, a deputation of Cherokee sachems or chiefs was conducted at the expense of the crown to England, in the year 1762. These savage deputies were presented at court with all the formalities appropriated to the reception of ambassadors from independent States, and were entertained with the display of whatever was thought likely to impress them with a high idea of British power and grandeur. Yet, that the Indians were regarded by their civilized entertainers, as in reality a sub-ordinate and inferior race, may perhaps be inferred from the fact that on the dresses with which they were furnished in order to qualify them for their appearance at court, the arms of the British crown were emblazoned. An odious and more significant testimony of the denegation of social equality to this race was afforded about two years after, when there was despatched from England to America a pack of blood-hounds, by whose peculiar instinct, it was expected that the British troops would be materially aided in discovering the tracks and retreats of Indian foes. The British have never stooped to the employment of martial instrumentality of so vile and barbarous a description, except in their contests with hostile Indian tribes, or revolted negro slaves. Sir William Johnson, indeed, seems to have been guided by a policy equally and liberal in his conduct to the savage tribes. He cultivated their good will by the respect which he showed for their manner and usages, and studied to promote their friendly coalition with the British colonists by encouraging the intermarriage of the two races. His exertions appear to have been attended with some success: for we find that in the year 1766, no fewer than eighteen marriages were contracted under his auspices between Indian chiefs and young white women of South Carolina."

Proceedings of Congress, IN RELATION TO THE ARMY, NAVY, &c.

IN SENATE.

FRIDAY, FEB. 14, 1840.

Mr. PIERCE presented the memorial of Samuel E. Coues, and one hundred and fifty-nine other citizens of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, upon the subject of a Congress of Nations. Mr. P. said that most of the signers were known to him, either personally or by reputation. They were engaged in the various pursuits of life, and it was but just to say of them, that they were

gentlemen of great intelligence, respectability, and high moral worth. They introduce the subject (which is treated with clearness and ability) by the declaration that "it is a growing sentiment among men, of all classes and professions, that international war is as needless as it is confessed to be ruinous to the resources and morals of a people;" and as "the most fruitful causes of war (in their estimation) flow from the unsettled state of international law," they present the project of a Congress of Nations, with a view to the double object of the amicable adjustment of national disputes, and the more definite one of the establishment of a code of international law. Although Mr. P. did not concur in all the views expressed by the memorialists, he entertained for their opinions a high respect, and moved the printing of the memorial, and its reference to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. BUCHANAN presented fourteen memorials from citizens of the United States, severally remonstrating against the use of bloodhounds in prosecuting the war against the Seminole Indians; which were referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. YOUNG presented a report, addressed to the Right Hon. Charles Poulett Thompson, President of the Board of Trade in Great Britain, on the subject of an inquiry into the number of accidents on board of vessels propelled by steam, the causes leading to such accidents, and the best mode of prevention; containing much valuable information, drawn from the experience of that country, as well as the countries of France, Belgium, and Holland; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce.

Mr. SOUTHWARD presented the memorial of a number of citizens of New Jersey, remonstrating against the use of bloodhounds in the Florida war; which was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

MONDAY, FEB. 17.

Mr. TALLMADGE presented the petition of citizens of Oneida county, New York, praying that the use of spirituous liquors may be prohibited in the army and navy of the United States; which was laid on the table.

Mr. BUCHANAN presented twenty memorials, remonstrating against the use of bloodhounds in the Florida war; which were referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. SOUTHWARD presented the memorial of George W. Osborne and others against the employment of bloodhounds in the Florida war; which was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. YOUNG, from the Committee on Roads and Canals, to which was referred a bill making certain military roads in the State of Arkansas, reported the same with amendments.

TUESDAY, FEB. 18.

Mr. STURGEON presented eleven memorials against the use of bloodhounds in the Florida war; which were laid on the table.

Mr. PIERCE, from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported the following bill; which was ordered to a second reading:

AN ACT to equalize the pay and allowances of the officers of the line and staff of the army.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That from and after the first day of the month next ensuing after the passing of this act, the colonels, lieutenant colonels, and majors, of the corps of Engineers, the corps of Topographical Engineers, the corps of Ordnance, the Quartermaster's Department, and the Subsistence Department, be entitled to receive forage, or money in lieu thereof, when forage is not furnished in kind, for the same number of horses only now allowed to officers of corresponding grades of the artillery and infantry of the army.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That from and after the first day of the month next ensuing the passage of this act, the captains in the staff, corps, and departments mentioned in the preceding section, be allowed forage, or money in lieu thereof, when forage is not furnished in kind, for two horses, and that the first and second lieutenants of the aforesaid corps and departments, after the same day, be no longer entitled to

forage or money in lieu thereof: *Provided, nevertheless,* That whenever the duties of said lieutenants shall require them to be mounted, they shall be furnished with two horses each, at the expense of the United States, and forage for the same.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That from and after the first day of the month next ensuing after the passing of this act, the colonels, lieutenant colonels, majors, and captains of the artillery and infantry of the army, be entitled to receive the same monthly pay as is now allowed by law to cavalry officers of similar and corresponding grades; and that the first and second lieutenants of the several corps and departments enumerated in the first section of this act, and also the first and second lieutenants of the artillery and infantry of the army, be entitled to receive, each, the monthly pay of thirty-two dollars and twenty-six dollars respectively.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That all acts or parts of acts inconsistent with the provisions of this act be, and the same are hereby, repealed.

Mr. P. said that it would not be proper for him, in the present stage of the bill, to enter upon a particular explanation of its details; but he would take leave to remark generally, that it would make but a very trifling increase of the annual expense of our whole military establishment. It contemplates, on the one hand, a reduction of the forage ration, and, on the other, an increase of the monthly pay—and this was the main principle upon which the equalization proposed to be effected was based. He believed there was no provision in the bill which the committee would not be prepared to vindicate, upon the ground of justice to those immediately interested, and from considerations of public policy. If he was not greatly mistaken with regard to the feeling which at present exists among the officers of the line of the army stationed in Florida, along the frontier, every where, sufficiently indicated, by the mass of memorials which had been presented at this and the two preceding sessions, and if he did not greatly mistake public sentiment upon this subject, the legislation proposed should be regarded as not less desirable to the staff than to the line. He hoped the bill would attract the attention of every Senator, and finally receive the approbation of all—because he anticipated from its passage the happiest results to every branch of the service.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

SATURDAY, FEB. 15, 1840.

The bill to continue the office of Commissioner of Pensions, and to transfer to that office, from the Navy Department, the business of navy pensions, was taken up and read the first and second times; when

Mr. JONES moved to refer it to the Committee of the Whole House, and make it the order of the day for Thursday next. This motion being objected to as out of order, Mr. JONES gave notice that he would move to call up this bill on Tuesday next.

MONDAY, FEB. 17.

The SPEAKER announced that the question before the House was the motion of Mr. CASEY to refer the memorial of the National Road Convention, held at Terre Haute, Indiana, to the Committee of Ways and Means, with instructions to report a bill appropriating \$150,000 to each of the States of Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, to be expended on the Cumberland road.

The substitute of Mr. PICKENS for said instructions, as follows:

"And that the memorial be committed to the Committee of Ways and Means, with instructions to consider the expediency of reporting a bill in favor of the measure."

And Mr. MARVIN's amendment to the original proposition and substitute for Mr. PICKENS' amendment, as follows:

"And that the Committee of Ways and Means be instructed to report bills in accordance with the estimates contained in the reports from the Chief Engineer, and the Chief of the Topographical Engineers, to the Secretary of War, and communicated to Congress by the President, making appropriations for the year 1840, for the continuation of the construction or improvements of

harbors and roads, the navigating of rivers, for which appropriations have been heretofore made.

Mr. CORWIN, who was entitled to the floor, in continuation of his remarks on Saturday, replied at great length to the constitutional objections of Mr. PICKENS to the passage of any bill making appropriations for this road.

PRESERVATION OF TIMBER.

From the National Gazette, Feb. 18.

MESSRS. EDITORS: In a letter just received from a friend in Georgia, connected with the western Railroad, through whom I had communicated with Col. Long, on the subject of my method of preserving timber, I am gratified to find the following evidence of the "high estimate of the preservative properties of the process" entertained by that gentleman, so distinguished as an engineer and a man of science. Do me the favor to insert it in your Gazette.

Your obedient servant,

EDWARD EARLE.

Extract from Col. Long's last quarterly Report to the Board of Commissioners of the Western and Atlantic Rail Road:

"Earle's process for preserving timber, which is effected by means of a solution of the sulphate of iron and copper in water, has fair claims to consideration on account both of its cheapness and efficacy in producing the desired effect. Its cost is undoubtedly far less than that of the Kyanizing process, while the durability of the materials prepared in this way is said to be quite equal to those impregnated with corrosive sublimate. A committee of the Franklin Institute, composed of gentlemen of the first distinction for their scientific and practical knowledge, have very recently had Earle's process under careful consideration and have given their decided testimony in its favor.

"Accordingly, I would recommend the adoption of both processes in the preparation of timber for the Western and Atlantic Railroad—not only with a view to economy in its preservation, but for the purpose of testing the comparative efficacy of the two methods, on different parts of the road."

A NEW ENGINE OF DESTRUCTION.—A late London paper mentions that a new projectile has been invented by a Captain Warner, which is capable of destroying vessels of the strongest structure. A boat, very firmly built was recently chosen by the inventor as the subject of an experiment. The missile was then thrown by his own hand, so as to touch the vessel just above the water line; it exploded the instant it struck the mark, quite heaving the vessel out of the water, and scattering the planks in ten thousand pieces. The account adds that—

"The whole destruction was effected by the agency of two and a half pounds of combustible matter, projected by an instrument of perhaps ten or a dozen pounds weight. There was no recoil whatever, nor any smoke or noise, till the shell itself exploded against the vessel, and then the percussion of air was tremendous, as it threw down the nearest spectator, and was felt, at a still greater distance, like the discharge of an eighty pounder, at least. At Kensington it created great commotion, as the explosion was attributed to the powder mills at Hounslow; and since the fact has become known, the excitement has greatly increased. No vessel of the line probably could have withstood the shock, or escaped total destruction from even the small quantity of combustibles experimented with.—The most singular circumstance, perhaps, is, that not the slightest discoloration was visible on any of the fragments. The power consequently is quite novel, and the secret jealously kept."

Gen. WILLIAM F. GORDON has been elected Major General of the second division of Virginia Militia.

WASHINGTON CITY,
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1840.

NAVY APPROPRIATION BILL.—The following are the provisions of the bill reported in the House on the 24th ult. by the chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means. For

| | | |
|---|---|-------------|
| Pay of officers and seamen | - | \$2,250,000 |
| Pay of superintendents, naval constructors, &c. | - | 74,620 |
| Provisions | - | 620,000 |
| Repairs of vessels | - | 1,000,000 |
| Medicines, &c. | - | 75,000 |
| Improvements and repair of Navy Yards, at | | |
| Portsmouth, N. H. | - | \$20,000 |
| Charlestown, Mass. | - | 17,000 |
| Brooklyn, N. Y. | - | 18,000 |
| Philadelphia | - | 5,000 |
| Washington | - | 20,000 |
| Gosport, Va. | - | 17,250 |
| Pensacola | - | 13,000 |
| | | 110,250 |
| Ordnance and ordnance stores | - | 65,000 |
| Contingent expenses (enumerated) | - | 450,000 |
| Do. do. (not enumerated) | - | 3,000 |

Total for navy proper - - - 4,647,870

MARINE CORPS.

| | | |
|------------------------------|---|-----------|
| Pay and subsistence | - | \$175,050 |
| Provisions | - | 45,054 |
| Clothing | - | 43,062 |
| Fuel | - | 16,274 |
| Temporary barracks, New York | - | 6,000 |
| Transportation | - | 8,000 |
| Medicines, &c. | - | 4,140 |
| Military stores | - | 2,300 |
| Contingent expenses | - | 17,980 |

317,860

HOSPITALS.

| | | |
|-----------------------|---|---------|
| At New York | - | \$9,500 |
| Norfolk | - | 3,500 |
| Pensacola | - | 7,000 |
| Philadelphia (asylum) | - | 4,250 |

24,250

Completing the two steam vessels now on the stocks - - - 340,000

REAPPROPRIATED.

The unexpended balance carried to the surplus fund, of a former appropriation for a dry dock in the harbor of New York - - - 95,063 61

Of all absurdities in legislation, one of the greatest is that of estimating and appropriating for an object, fractions of a dollar, when the actual expenditures under that head cannot be determined in advance within one thousand dollars, if they can be within ten thousand. Thus we see in the bill above mentioned, an item "for provisions for the non-commissioned officers, musicians, and privates [of the marine corps] serving on shore, servants and washerwomen," **FORTY-FIVE THOUSAND AND FIFTY-FOUR DOLLARS and ninety-nine cents,** and "for fuel, six-

TEEN THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-FOUR DOLLARS and *twelve cents.*" Descending to such minutiae, where so large sums are involved, throws an air of ridicule over the whole legislation for that object. It is right and proper to appropriate specific sums for each object of expenditure; but why descend so low? If done under the impression that every cent appropriated will be expended, it is erroneous; or if to show a zealous watchfulness for the public purse, it is ridiculous.

Mr. McDUFFIE's plan was the best: when he was chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means in the House, he omitted in the bills he reported, all fractions of dollars, and so it ought always to be. Another practice of his, if followed, would save great inconvenience to the public creditors: it was that of reporting appropriation bills for the first quarter of the year succeeding the current year; thus providing the Government with funds to meet its engagements, and allowing more time in Congress to mature and act upon appropriation bills, as well as other objects.

It would be better for all if the fiscal year were to terminate on the 31st March, instead of the 31st December.

It was stated in this paper of the 12th December that Paymaster R. A. FORSYTH had been dismissed, from the army, for a defalcation of about \$15,000 in his accounts. This statement was made with great regret, in the discharge of a professional duty, and from a conviction, too, that the circumstance could not and would not be concealed from the public. The slight acquaintance we had formed with Major FORSYTH had led us to form a high estimate of his official correctness and gentlemanly deportment.

It now gives us much pleasure to state, and it is likewise an act of justice due to Major FORSYTH, that his accounts have been rendered and settled at the Treasury, and the balance appearing to be due by his own statement has been refunded. In the examination of his accounts, some trifling differences were discovered, (as will almost always be the case in large and complicated accounts,) amounting to but a small sum in the aggregate; and if, on comparison with his books and a revision of his accounts, these should be found correct, we do not doubt that the entire balance will be paid over, or such explanations given as will entitle him to credits therefor.

BLOODHOUNDS—FLORIDA WAR.—We have refrained from any allusion to the employment of bloodhounds in the Florida war, because the subject had assumed a political aspect, and we wished to avoid mingling the discussion of politics and professional matters in our columns. The employment of these hounds has been denounced in the strongest terms by one party, and defended by the other. We have preferred waiting to see what explanation the Government had to make, and to give our readers the benefit of that explanation. Accordingly, we have inserted the correspondence laid before the Senate on Monday last by Mr. BENTON, and have quoted from

the Globe, Journal of Commerce, New York Star, and National Gazette, the views expressed by those prints, accompanied by extracts from authors who have alluded to the employment of hounds in other countries for similar purposes. From these several data our readers can judge for themselves, if they have not already formed their opinions.

While advertizing to the subject, we must say that we can perceive no more cruelty in trailing the Indians to their hiding places with hounds, (all other attempts having proved unavailing,) than in chasing them on horseback and on foot, through hammock and swamp, and shooting at them whenever a chance was obtained.

ARRIVALS AT WASHINGTON.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| Feb. 9—Lieut. Wm. Wall, 3d arty, | Gadsby's |
| 12—Asst. Sur. J. Rhett Motte, army, | do. |
| 13—Asst. Sur. B. W. Woods, army, | Gadsby's |
| Lt. J. C. Fletcher, 6th infy., | Fuller's |
| Lt. E. S. Osgood, do., | do. |
| Lt. J. R. Scott, 7th infy., | Cochran's |
| 15—Lieut. T. T. Craven, navy, | Gadsby's |
| 18—Lieut. J. A. Davis, do., | Fuller's |
| Mid. A. Mufray, do., | do. |

LETTERS ADVERTISED.

WASHINGTON, FEB. 15, 1840.

ARMY.—Gen. W. K. Armistead 2, Lt. M. S. Culbertson, Lieut. [Capt.] Campbell Graham, Lt. Col. B. K. Pierce.

NAVY.—P. Mid. S. F. Blunt, Dr. W. Maxwell Wood.

PHILADELPHIA, FEB. 15.

NAVY.—Rev. Walter Colton, Rev. J. W. Grier, Dr. H. S. Rennolds, Dr. Smith, Lieut. F. Varnum.

Communications.

SCENES IN FLORIDA.

A LEAF FROM MY JOURNAL, NO. II.

Our destination now was Key Biscayne, the site known on the general map as Cape Florida, where a light-house was long since established, and, until burnt by the Seminoles, was regularly kept up by a family resident there.

Though saddened with the reflection that we were removing farther and farther, at every step, from the region of civilized life, and conscious, too, that our expatriation was for an indefinite period, there remained yet a redeeming solace in the conviction that Key Biscayne was far more tolerable than many of the interior stations to which we might have been doomed; that, bad as our fate was, it might have been still worse; and so, like true philosophers, we worked out lights in our prospect by a judicious arrangement of contrasting shades. Besides, Key Biscayne was spoken of by our friends in St. Augustine as a choice spot, absolutely an enviable station; nay, to judge of it from the descriptions we received, all *couleur de rose* as they were, we might have fancied ourselves bound for paradise instead of purgatory. But we suffered not our anticipations to be intemperately raised on the one hand, nor our spirits to be unreasonably depressed on the other. We knew that any Florida station, however qualified or endowed, was but a choice of evils, and we abandoned ourselves to our destiny with that dogged resoluteness of spirit which is so apt to be generated by the peculiar habitudes of military life, and becomes at length engrafted as an important element of the soldier's character. Ever subject to a changeable and imperious destiny, he soon feels the impotence of his own will, and consequently the folly of seeking for his own preferences. To abide contentedly by the fortunes that await us, whether it be thro' a temper of apathetic indifference, or a noble spirit of

self-discipline and denial, or that religious submission to Providential decrees which St. Paul felt when he said—"I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content"—by whatever means we can arrive at mental tranquillity, it seems to be certainly preferable to mental disquietude.

Our trip down the coast was exciting from the danger we incurred. Our vessel was heavily laden, so heavily that she would have been wrecked had we encountered any thing of a gale. Our captain had never navigated in this quarter, and was unacquainted with his ground. The passage of Cape Carnaveral was therefore extremely critical, for its shoals make out very far into the sea, and no beacon or landmark existed to tell us where we were. We passed this dangerous cape, however, without disaster, though the breakers were foaming all round us. The next day we made the light-house of Key Biscayne, but being without pilots, or any knowledge of the harbor, we were obliged to anchor all night, and the next day felt our way in as best we could. The following directions for entering the harbor of Key Biscayne may be worth recording. Coming from the north, run down in two fathoms water, past the light some 6 or 7 miles, until the Soldier's Key bears W.S.W. (to avoid a reef that makes off S.S.E. from the cape,) then cross over the reef, westerly, in 9 feet water, and bear up immediately towards the light-house, N.N.W., keeping the edge of the reef close on the starboard hand. The anchorage is safe and commodious, close under the south shore of the island, which is here so bold that freight may be landed by a single plank from the deck of the vessel to the sand-beach.

We had now gained an extreme of southern latitude to which none of us were accustomed. Though the season was mid winter, the air was soft and bland, and vegetation rich with all the verdure of spring. The aspect of the island as we approached it, was flat and low, unpromising of every thing that could contribute to the picturesque, save the tall light-house, and one other object that excited the admiration of us all. This was a magnificent cocoa-nut tree, rearing its palmy head far above the stunted scrub that covered the rest of the island, and gave earnest, as a rich and gorgeous symbol of the tropical clime to which we were now introduced. This splendid tree is always the distinguishing mark of Key Biscayne, by which the stranger's eye would be first attracted. All else is monotony. The general face of the island is so flat, and so little raised above the level of the sea, that the whole might be inundated by any extraordinary rise of the tides. And yet the wells which are sunk in the sand furnish very tolerable water, a very little brackish, but still not unwholesome. The soil is sandy, and too poor for any profitable culture, unless aided much by artificial process. The objection that rests against Key Biscayne, however, as the strongest argument of its unsuitability for a place of permanent residence, is the prevalence of mosquitoes. They infest the island, and indeed all this coast, in such myriads, and for so many months in the year, that it is an absolute punishment to be compelled to live here. How far this pest may affect the prospects of Key Biscayne as a place of commercial consequence is doubtful. The harbor is important from its geographical position, and is always safe for vessels drawing less than nine feet. The climate is truly delightful. Visited as it is by daily returns of the tropical sea-breeze, the atmosphere is peculiarly benign and healthful. For valetudinarians, therefore, Key Biscayne has some inviting properties, which appertain equally, however, to Indian Key and Key West.

After a short stay on the island we crossed the bay, some six or eight miles over, to the mainland, where we found several old plantations. The shore here is rock bound, presenting sometimes a precipitous bluff, decked with luxuriant masses of foliage, and thus contrasting very agreeably with the arid sand-beach that borders all the outer coast of Florida.

At length we pitched our tents at Fort Dallas, situated at the mouth of the river Miami, one of the short streams leading out from the everglades. There we found a tract comparatively high and undulating. It had been cultivated by its former proprietors, as we saw by some remaining copses of banana, still flourishing groves of the lime tree, and many scattered stalks of the sugar cane growing here and there over the fields amidst a wild and tangled herbage. This plantation tract is, however, small in extent. We soon pass over its boundaries into the usual pine barren of the interior, where the soil is light and steril. This, however, differs materially from the barrens of northern Florida. Instead of a deep, penetrable sand, in which the tall pines can throw down their top roots unobstructed, the trees here are short, crooked, and sparse, owing to the peculiar character of the ground. For the whole substratum is a bed of calcareous rock, jutting up in sharp crags and ridges, and so lightly covered with soil as to afford no support for a heavy growth of timber. Such is the face of the country over a belt from two to four miles broad, and extending throughout the whole length of this southern coast. It is almost impracticable for cavalry, and even for foot troops it can be passed over only with great difficulty and fatigue.

Within this rocky ridge the country descends a few feet to a new level extending off westward far into the interior, and here are the everglades—that still unexplored region, which only the Indian has penetrated, and only the Indian can occupy. This Pay-hai-o-kee, or grass water, is an immense interior basin, bounded by the rocky ridge just described, having its outlets through several channels, like that of the Miami, with a fall of six or eight feet only to the level of tide water. This difference of level is less than the estimate of Dr. Perrine, who judged it possible to irrigate most of the pine lands in this quarter by simply drawing off the water of the everglades through canals and sluices. The everglades are deeply overflowed in rainy seasons, when they are traversed by the Indians in their canoes, but in dry times are passed on foot. Several pine islands in the interior have been explored, but many more doubtless remain to be discovered; and here the Indians have their strong holds. These islands are certainly not inaccessible by the whites, but will be found extremely difficult to approach by troops ordinarily appointed. It is not probable that the Indians have any partiality for them as places of permanent residences; but when driven by stress of circumstances they will resort there for immediate safety, and may always reserve them as depositories of their more valuable effects. When not so pressed, they will continue to roam at large over the dry country, where game is abundant, the *coontie* inexhaustible.

This farinaceous root grows nowhere in greater profusion than throughout this same rocky region which has been described above. Hardly capable of bearing the pine, drear and forbidding in every aspect, the soil still produces the *coontie*; and throughout the whole forty miles we traversed, north and south of the Miami, and beyond this limit ten times extended, this beautiful plant grows as luxuriantly, and almost as ripe, as the saw palmetto itself. In short, it covers the whole ground. This is the white *coontie*, from which the finest arrowroot is made, and that by such simple process that the Indians, with their very scanty and imperfect utensils, always keep themselves well supplied with the flour. What country on earth bears upon its bosom in such rich profusion the indigenous elements of man's subsistence? I had seen many parts of Florida, considered as peculiarly adapted to the wants of the Indian, and equally unfavorable to the interests of civilized husbandry, but nothing equals this southern district. Nature is here prolific of her own gifts to her own children, those who can subsist upon them in aboriginal simplicity; but promises nothing to agricultural labor, however sedulously and faithfully applied. I speak chiefly, however, of those

crops depending on arable culture. For trees, bearing tropical fruits, whose roots can perforate the rocky crevices and find aliment there, this region of country may be sufficiently well adapted. But who can say how many years must elapse before it can be brought, even thus far, under the subduing influence of the white man?

The country thus described as being so remarkably favorable to the Indians for all their purposes of defence and subsistence, proved eventually to be the district most haunted by them. From the first day of our arrival they were perceived hanging about our camp, spying out our numbers, or trying to pick off our sentinels. They lurked in the neighboring hammocks, or under the palmetto scrub, to waylay our wood parties, ever seeking to take us at disadvantage, but never daring to encounter us openly. Of course, whenever they were seen, they were pursued with a vigor and hardihood that did much credit to our people; but being more swift of foot than our troops, they were always able to effect their escape. And this is a picture of the general life we lead in Florida. It is a description not peculiar to the district we now occupy, but is equally applicable to almost every station and to every season. Night, which to others is commonly welcomed as the time for sweet rest and repose, brought to our minds only the sense of increased dangers. Indeed, through every hour of the twenty-four, wherever we might be, on our beds, at our meals, or in our walks, the same besetting apprehension was ever goading us, that the stealthy foe might be near, in spite of all our vigilance and all our precaution.

The tendency of this state of things, in its ceaseless and concentrated operation on the mind, forms a subject for serious consideration. A life spent in the wilderness, protracted through a term of years, with scarcely any subject of moving interest on which to employ the faculties, but this single one of pursuing or avoiding the Indian, superinduces a train of influences which cannot but operate unfavorably on the mind and character of the individual. Feelings of rancorous hate, stimulated by the nature of the service, and confirmed by the force of habit, grow up in the breast with almost the fixedness of settled principle. All the amenities and charities of social life seem to become, as it were, anomalous and out of place, and are in danger of being forgotten. "Grim-visaged war" makes us grim-tempered also. Even the range of intellectual vision becomes circumscribed. The mental powers are "cribbed, cabined, confined;" and the moral faculties, those more precious elements of our constitution, are in danger of becoming impaired and debased by the absorbing prevalence of the one feeling and the single aim of hating and killing the Seminole.

The United States are at some pains to build up an efficient and respectable army, by forming the character of its officers on a standard of high intellectual and moral excellence. Let not this character be neutralized or obliterated by the scathing influence of a Florida exile!

Some two months after our establishment at Fort Dallas, Colonel Harney arrived there with Tomoka John and Negro Sandy, for the purpose of communicating with the Indians. The terms of the new treaty now to be offered them seemed to be as favorable as could be expected; more so than any one had anticipated a year before. As the treaty conceded to the Indians what we supposed to be the main ground of dispute, namely, that they were allowed to remain in their country, the prospect of peace seemed now more certain than at any former period. However limited were the precincts allotted them, we supposed they would gladly embrace the conditions, provided only that they were not to be transported from their native land and their own fervid sun. There was a time, unquestionably, when such a composition might easily have been made. That these conditions should be re-

jected now, proves that we have lost rather than gained by a continuance of the war.

After several ineffectual excursions to the interior, to look up Sam Jones, or any of his people, our messenger at length brought in Chitto Tustenugge and another Indian, the first they happened to encounter. The message of peace was received by Chitto with all proper complacency, though we remarked no extraordinary expression of delight on his part at the glad tidings. This, however, might be fairly attributable to the characteristic apathy of the race; we were in no mood ourselves to suffer a cloud of suspicion to darken the clear sky of promise which had now dawned upon our hopes. Chitto was regaled with plentiful potations of strong waters, and the pipe of peace went round. At length, after having received our "talk," and exchanged the usual courtesy of a shake of the hand, he took his departure for the wild wood again, promising to communicate with Ar-pi-a-ki, and bring us his answer in four days.

After two subsequent interviews of this kind, a good understanding with these Indians seemed to be fully established. Chitto reported that Sam Jones had consented to the terms proffered, and had authorized him to act as his representative in subscribing to the treaty. For this purpose he was to proceed to Fort King, with another of his tribe, where he should meet Gen. Macomb. The journey was afterwards accomplished; the treaty was there signed, and the issue has become matter of history.

And thus was concluded a new truce with these savages—the third I had witnessed since the war began. For the third time I was called upon to take their hands in token of friendship. Those same skinny hands, so recently lifted against us in murderous hostility, so deeply imbued in the blood of our fellows! The better feelings could not but revolt at this overt pledge of amity, while the recollection of recent bloodshed was so fresh on our minds. But there was no room for moralizing. We had a part to play, and our role was peace!

Chitto made it a *sine qua non* that Colonel Harney should go with him to Fort King. Under his protection and guidance he would be willing to go any where. And this confidence in the Colonel is a feeling very generally manifested by those Indians who have had dealings with him. His uncommon physical prowess and martial bearing, added to his liberality of temper, are qualities which they are quick to appreciate, and always hold in high esteem. Few men, indeed, have deserved more of their esteem; yet it was against his life they plotted at the massacre of Caloosa-hatchee! Such is the Indian character! Its principal ingredients are still treachery, falsehood, and cruelty. Their virtues, (or qualities ranked as such by some partial friends of the savage race,) can hardly be named when considered in the light of moral truth, or judged of by any true standard of intellectual dignity; while their vices are those of ignorance and brutality, carried out to the full extent of all that is depraved in the human character.

Their love of ardent spirits is a consuming passion, and its attractive power was not forgotten when it was found necessary to call together a council. But the use of whiskey in our dealings with the Indians can never be more than a temporary expedient, and of questionable utility even then. They will pledge you in seeming friendship, and quaff the intoxicating cup with a delight which we may believe to be sincere; but the hour of reflection will arrive even for the Indian, and with it will return all his wonted suspicion of the white man's truth, and a renewed rankling of that large store of revenge which is garnered up in his heart. It is doubtful, therefore, whether one single ulterior object or beneficent result is ever gained where whiskey is employed as the means. A message of invitation is indeed much re-inforced by a display of the bottle. To gain a first interview, to open the door for renewed commerce and reconciliation, its instrumen-

tal might be useful, but no further. If the propositions offered be not of themselves acceptable, whiskey will not make them so. If the terms of peace we dictate be not more desirable to the Indians than a continuance of hostilities, whiskey will not add any real force to our arguments. It may serve to protract negotiations, by which we have been ourselves more than once deluded into the vain expectation of a final adjustment; but the end will be the same; and we learn at last that the best way to deal with the Indian is the same we employ in our honest transactions with the world at large—offer an adequate consideration, and be faithful in all our engagements. R.

AN ADVENTURE ON THE PRAIRIE.

MR. EDITOR: In the summer of 1831 I was serving at cantonment Leavenworth. Wishing to extend my knowledge of the country, and weary of inactivity, I obtained leave of absence, in order to accompany an officer of the Indian Department on an official visit to the villages of the Oto and O-ma-haw Indians, and the Old Council Bluff in their vicinity. We took with us a French servant, or *engagé*, named Godfrey, and had a pack-horse, which carried a tent and provisions. I give you below an unembellished statement of incidents, as I find them recorded in my journal of the third day; we had slept fifty-six miles above camp. L. If it prove acceptable, I may send you, from time to time, other specimens of life on and beyond the frontier.

A LEAF FROM MY NOTE-BOOK.

Tuesday, 14th June. We got over the boggy stream by 6 o'clock; after riding about twelve miles (over rolling prairie) we suddenly beheld before us the beautiful valley of the Grand Ne-me-haw; far below us stretched out, a mile and a half in width, the level prairie bottom, studded with numberless flowers of every brilliant color; the margin of the river was fringed and relieved by stately trees; five elks, disturbed by our approach, slowly galloped away along the hill-side. But our attention was withdrawn from this beautiful scene; for, rather suddenly, half of the heavens were obscured by an immense black cloud; reaching from the horizon on either side, it culminated dark as night. All thoughts were turned to securing ourselves from the storm, and placing the river behind us; we hastened on, and fortunately struck its bank where a large tree had been felled across. Removing our saddles and pack, we carried them over; Godfrey swam his horse across, the others following. We mounted to seek drier ground, and about half a mile above we encamped on a small prairie; we were near the edge of the bank; along and below it grew scattered trees, enough to conceal the course of the river, which made a bend above, and the "bluff," (or prairie hill) opposite us, which was half a mile distant. By the time the tent was pitched and the horses hobbled, the storm broke over us with an awful crash of thunder and lightning, which seemed close above and around us. It rained in showers from midday until dark—then it wonderfully increased; for hours, in almost continuous showers, it fell as violently as I had ever seen before in storms, at the moment of greatest force.

We remained sitting up in the tent, our provisions, &c. raised on the saddles and covered with blankets; our candle was put out by the rain about nine o'clock. Near eleven we determined to lie down, though the ground was thoroughly soaked, and we were wet to the skin. In about an hour the rain began to fall more steadily and moderately, and I fell asleep.

About three o'clock I was aroused, and found myself lying in water. A conviction that we were flooded was soon forced upon our minds, for the water rapidly increased in depth. The darkness was palpable. We were overwhelmed with astonishment that the river could in that time overflow its banks,

and attached an importance to our awful situation which those who must see us alive and well can never appreciate. Various plans of escape or safety were now proposed. Godfrey thought we would have to take to a tree, and live on one of the horses. Fortunately daylight began to dawn, when we discovered our horses close by, trembling with fear. The water was now near knee deep, though not over the grass. I observed a remarkable bank of fog (I thought) along the foot of the hills. We had to fish for our bridles, &c. at arm's length in the water. The white fog sensibly approached, and we discovered it was water—the river in a new channel! Our preparations were hurried—the tent was left standing—I abandoned a blanket. Mr. B. was at length mounted, and tried the depth of water in several directions. I proposed to follow up the margin of the bank, knowing it was there the shallowest. I mounted my trembling horse, when he mired, plunged, and seemed incapable of exertion. I got off, and left him loose to follow. The water was half thigh deep; I became much exhausted, and stopped and pulled off my woollen pantaloons and threw them over my shoulder; my companions had stuck to their horses, and were far ahead; I feared to step over the bank and be swept off. At the bend I discovered the bluff, three hundred yards off. It was now quite light; I made for the hill through a swift current above my waist, and at length reaching the new shore, offered up my thanks.

I threw myself on the ground, and was soon pleased and surprised to see the approach of our pack-horse, which Godfrey had left to take care of himself. I stopped him, and finding a bottle of brandy had been saved, took a hearty drink.

On the hill top we made a fire and unpacked every thing to dry. The cries of drowning fawns were heard the whole forenoon, and many deer swam out in our neighborhood. The river had risen now about twenty feet perpendicular: perhaps four of which, on an average, was over an expanse of two miles. I believe it had not rained over any part of its course earlier than at this point. Z.

FLORIDA WAR—BLOOD-HOUNDS.

A WORD IN SEASON.

Thoroughly repudiating that mawkish sensibility that can sympathise with the murderous savage, and overlook what is due for the protection of the helpless mother, wife, and child of the white man; and fully justifying the employment of the Spanish hound in hunting out the lurking and fleeing foe; I cannot refrain from suggesting to the military, not only to keep the hound in leash, but also in muzzle, till the moment of contest—not so much on account of the mischief they can inflict upon others with their teeth, but the injury that may be done to themselves in a natural way. It would be injudicious in a writer who has spent a little time with the Seminoles a few years since, to speak more explicitly—and yet it is sufficient to intimate, that the hound may be induced to taste prepared *calma latafolia* [venenum canis.] Every reader of Boz will remember the "insinuation" about the scarcity of dogs under certain circumstances. Verb. Sat. E.

THE STEAM FRIGATE.—The ship carpenters, engaged on the Philadelphia steam frigate, have commenced laying the bend or wail planking. The engine, which is being built at the extensive establishment of Messrs. Merrick & Towne, and we believe will be of superior make, is progressing with rapidity, and it is presumed that the vessel will be ready for launching by the 1st of September. She will carry but few guns, and those are to be of the largest dimensions; these with mortars will effect more service in a steam ship than a larger quantity of guns of smaller dimensions.—*Philadelphia Ledger*.

Domestic Intelligence.

From the St. Augustine Herald, 6th instant.

THE BLOODHOUNDS.

TALLAHASSEE, Jan. 28, 1840.—Thinking it quite probable that the newspapers would soon magnify the bloodhounds brought from Cuba into creatures about the size of an elephant, with teeth like a shark's and jaws longer than an alligator's, I galloped over to Magnolia yesterday and passed the day with the amiable animals.

So various are these dogs in color, shape, size, and age, that at first sight they appear like an ordinary pack barking about a planter's dwelling, but examination proves them quite another thing. To describe a dog so as to be understood is difficult. I must therefore convey a general idea by requesting you to imagine a short-haired, black, red, yellow, brindled, or spotted dog, or any color that ever bedecked the species, 24 inches high and 36 inches long, (or thereabouts,) with a head, breast, fore-legs and shoulders like a light-made mastiff, and snout somewhat elongated, ears erect like a grey-hound, (mostly cropped where they bend,) and loins, croup, haunches, and tail, like a grey-hound, only thicker set. This combination, you may conceive, produces an animal of great nerve, strength and agility, and such, to all appearance, are these bloodhounds.

They are 34 in number—5 or 6 old dogs, well trained—the remainder younger—some I should think not a year old; one of these, a lady bloodhound, walked about in the village with me as familiarly and lovingly as a spaniel; but her kindness was inoperative upon the rest of her clan, for such a set of ferocious beasts I never before saw. That modern Daniel, Van Amburgh, who goes among the lions, would stand no chance among them. When any living thing approaches one of the older dogs, his eyes flash, he roars with rage, and twists like a serpent to escape from his chain; the keepers have them under subjection, but have frequently to maintain quiet order by inflicting heavy blows with a cudgel, when the dog lays down with an air which seems to say, "I will be civil to accommodate you; but d—n your stick," for they neither wince or howl.

A few days since, as an experiment, a negro was sent a mile into the woods to climb a tree, and in an hour afterwards a dog was put upon the trail—he followed it direct through all the windings of the bushes without faulting. The only question is, will they follow the trail of an Indian? If they will they will be a great acquisition to the country, for, as to fighting, I am satisfied they would grapple with any thing. The way two or three of them would rattle a dozen Indians out of a scrub, or a bay-gall, would be nobody's business. I can only add, that I am much pleased with the bloodhounds, and would like no better fun than taking a hunt with them.

Four keepers have come with them from Cuba. The elder, a very respectable sort of man, as I believe, a runaway negro hunter by profession; and he has such confidence in his dogs that he is ready to lead their way against Indians, wherever ordered—there is nothing of the flincher in his appearance.

ST. AUGUSTINE, Feb. 7.—The bloodhounds lately received from Cuba, have been subjected to many experiments, the results of which have been very satisfactory. They follow a trail twenty-four hours old with rapidity and accuracy. Some of them are to be employed by the troops now scouring the country between the mouths of the Wacassassa and Suwannee rivers, Micanopy, &c.

INDIANS.—An attack was made, by a party of the enemy, on the train from Pilatka to Fort No. 10, on Sunday last. Three soldiers were wounded, and a serjeant missed.

The Military District, of which Fort No. 10 is the radiating point, is on the western banks of the St.

Johns, and its northern boundary commences nearly opposite to Picolata. The distance between Pilatka and the fort is not over 10 miles, but as each of the posts are situated in a bend of the river, the train has to take the Fort Heileman road, crossing three branches of the *It-tun-wak* creek.—*News*.

From the Journal of Commerce.

THE BLOODHOUNDS.—It appears from statements made in the U. S. Senate on Tuesday, by Messrs. Buchanan and Benton, that the bloodhounds about which so much has been said, were imported into Florida, without the agency or knowledge of the General Government. This being the case, it may fairly be questioned whether the addition of bloodhounds to the means of warfare hitherto in use in Florida, is any thing very dreadful, after all. We do not say that we would recommend it; but we are inclined to believe said dogs would do but little mischief, as the Indians would readily pick them off with their rifles, or if preferred, could set their own dogs (of which they usually have a plenty,) upon the hounds, and so have a regular dog-fight as a prelude to the man fight. If, however, by any chance, the Indians should be as much frightened by the idea of bloodhounds as the Maroons of Jamaica were, and so give up the contest without further resistance, it might be better both for them and others. Some of the leading facts in relation to the Maroon warfare are thus stated by a correspondent:

CUBA BLOODHOUNDS.

The following account from "Edwards' West Indies," shows that the employment of these animals to hunt men, is not now done for the first time.

"When the English captured Jamaica from the Spaniards in 1655, in the time of Oliver Cromwell, the Spanish negroes, called Maroons, took refuge in the mountains,—from whence, for more than 80 years, they kept up a destructive war upon the English. At length in 1737, Government established several fortified posts in the mountains, and each post was furnished with a pack of dogs—*furnished by the church wardens of each parish*. From this pursuit the negroes could no longer escape—and the next year Government made a formal treaty with them and allotted them lands for their support.

In 1795 another Maroon war broke out, and the inhabitants anticipated all the horrors of St. Domingo; but the timely arrival of troops kept the Maroons in check, until in September the Assembly sent over to Cuba for 100 dogs. On their arrival in December, such accounts were spread of them as made a most unexpected impression on the Maroons—who in great humiliation sued for peace, and the same month they made a treaty, agreeing to live in such part of the island as should be prescribed to them. In 1796, about 600 of them were sent to Halifax; lands were purchased for them in Nova Scotia, and they were all comfortably settled at the expense of £25,000 voted by the Assembly."

Mr. Edwards remarks: "It is pleasing to add that not a drop of blood was spilt after the dogs arrived in the island." He says of them, "that they are not in general larger than the shepherds' dogs in Great Britain—that they were equal to the mastiff in bulk—to the bull dog in courage—to the bloodhound in scent, and to the grey-hound in agility."

FLORIDA WAR.

ON BOARD STEAMBOAT FLORIDA,
St. John's River, Feb. 7, 1840.

To the Editor of the Georgian:

As a military train consisting of 12 wagons, when returning from station No. 12 to Garey's Ferry, on Wednesday the 5th inst. and when within 3 miles of the seven-mile house, and 10 from the station at Garey's Ferry, one of the principal military stations in Florida, they were attacked by a party of Indians

that lay in ambush in the grass near the road, and fired on, killing one of the drivers and six mules.

As soon as they commenced firing they set up their yelling as usual, and frightened the mules so that they became unmanageable, and the teams scattered in all directions: generally, however, running but a short distance before hitching the wagons against trees.

The drivers extricated themselves from their teams as well as they could, and made the best of their way to the seven-mile house, and the wagon master proceeded to Garey's Ferry, coming up 5 miles from the place of attack, with Maj. Bennett, who, with his escort of 10 or twelve mounted men, turned immediately back, and reached the place within one hour after the attack was made, but the Indians had plundered the wagons of all articles of value to them, and made their escape.

Col. Twiggs, on hearing the intelligence, ordered Lieut. Darling, with a detachment of dragoons, who proceeded to the place of attack, but night coming on, they returned to their quarters to spend the night and take a new start the next day, but with what success was not known on Friday.

Since receiving the above, Capt. Nock, of the steamer Florida, has furnished the following:

About 10 miles from Garey's Ferry, Wednesday 5th Feb. at 2 o'clock, P. M. a train of wagons was returning from the interior, and was attacked by from twelve to fifteen Indians, who, firing on the train, killed one man named Farson Camell—he having five balls in him—two mules shot, and four wounded. The wagons were plundered of the covers and provisions belonging to the train. The wagon master arrived express at Garey's Ferry, and the quartermaster's men were immediately sent in pursuit, but could not discover any signs of them whatever.

Near Fort Brooke, on the 1st February, a detachment of men was sent in pursuit of deserters, and were fired on by a party of Indians. Three men were wounded, and the sergeant missing; on the attack, his horse being shot under him, he disappeared, and is supposed to be shot.

TALLAHASSEE, Feb. 1.—More Indian depredations have been committed on the Apalachicola. On Saturday last a wagon, loaded with provisions for one of the posts, was attacked near Carnochan's plantation, by a party of twenty or thirty Indians. The guard, consisting of three men, attempted a defence, but were driven off, and one of their number wounded. The wagon was burnt. Captain Bullock, with his company of dragoons, is in pursuit of the savages. A few days previous, a party of Indians, supposed to be the same that attacked the wagon, was fallen upon by our troops, and so closely pursued as to abandon their packs and plunder.

On Tuesday evening a party of ten or fifteen Indians attacked the dwelling of Mr. Harlan, on the Apalachicola, six miles above Iola. Mr. H. and two children were killed. The Indians, after the attack, crossed to the east of the river.

On the same night a party of six Indians and three negroes attacked the family at Rowlett's mills, about 25 miles above Apalachicola. A negro girl was badly wounded, and a daughter of Mr. Rowlett carried off by the Indians. The Franklin Guards, of Apalachicola, went up the Roanoke on Wednesday morning, and are in pursuit of the savages.

The reports of depredations in the vicinity of Monticello, are incorrect.—*Floridian*.

The Star says of the wagon attacked, that the savages killed two mules and wounded one of the men. A sergeant who was with the wagon, and two soldiers, defended themselves with great bravery, and kept the Indians off until two mules were released from the wagon, with the aid of which the men made their escape.

THE CHEROKEES.—Under the head of "General Arbuckle and the Cherokees," the *Western Star* (at Liberty, Mo.) states that three companies of the 1st regiment of dragoons (being one half of the garrison attached to Fort Leavenworth,) left that place on the 28th, under the command of Major Wharton, to join the troops at Fort Gibson, in the Cherokee nation.

The *Western Star* also states, as of the editor's own knowledge, that "it is the common sentiment of the officers who accompanied Col. Kearny on his late march into the Cherokee nation, that there is no need of an increased force in that country at the present time, and certainly no necessity for it, owing to any reasonable apprehension of war or other injury from the Cherokees themselves."

The same paper then goes so far as to state that the recent excitement in regard to a war with the Cherokees, is "all a hoax," and that the present withdrawal of one-half of the entire military force, designed for the protection of the Missouri frontier, to the frontier of Arkansas, is as useless to the latter as it is dangerous to the former.—*National Intelligencer*.

NOTICE TO MARINERS.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, February 17, 1840.

The following is a copy of a notice transmitted to this Department by George Huyter, Esq., United States Consul at Nassau, Bahamas:

CUSTOM-HOUSE, NASSAU, N. P.
Bahamas, January 24, 1840.

Her Majesty's Government having established a light-house on the Salt Cay Bank, in the Florida strait, from which a fixed light will be exhibited on the 15th of February next, the following particulars of it are published for the information of mariners: At the northwestern extremity of the Salt Cay bank, on the elbow or northwesternmost, and highest of the narrow ridge of detailed barren rocks, commonly known as the Double-headed Shot Cays. This light-house has been erected in 23 deg. 56 min. 28 sec. north latitude, and 80 deg. 27 min. 38 sec. west longitude. Its base is forty-six feet above high water, and the height of the tower is fifty-four feet. The light is fixed, and may be seen in all directions except on the bearing of S. W. by W. $\frac{1}{2}$ W. (magnetic,) where, at the distance of about nine miles, it will be intercepted by Water Cay. From the light-house the southwesternmost of the Double-headed Shot Cays bears S. S. W. $\frac{1}{2}$ W. (magnetic,) distance three and a half miles. The Florida stream is generally found to set strongly to the northeast, within a mile and a half of these rocks; but, through the intervals of the cays, the ebb and flood tides run rapidly off and on the bank where it is high water at full, and changes at nine o'clock, and the tide rises from two to three feet. The light being one hundred feet above the level of the sea, it will be visible in clear weather at the distance of

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| 14 miles to an eye elevated 10 feet. | |
| 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ do do do 20 do | |
| 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ do do do 40 do | |
| 20 do do do 80 do. | |

W. T. HAMLYN, Collector.

NAVY YARD, NEW YORK,
February 14, 1840.

To the Editor of the *N. Y. American*:

SIR: I take pleasure in sending you, for such use as you may think proper to make of it, the following extract from a report of Capt. Kearny, of the frigate "United States," off Sandy Hook, yesterday, relative to *Gedney's Channel*:

"Mr. Charles White, a Jersey Pilot, has brought this ship out, over the Bar, by way of *Gedney's Channel*, and the average sounding at half tide, was five fathoms—the least cast of the lead might be stated at 1-4 less 5."

I am, sir, respectfully, &c.,
J. RENSHAW, Com'dt.

We understand that orders were received yesterday, to fit out for a three years' cruise, the new sloop of war *Yorktown*, at present lying at the Navy Yard.—*Norfolk Beacon*, Feb. 13.

We understand that the *Potomac* of 44 guns came out of the dock a few days since, and is fitting for service with despatch.

The broad pennant of Commodore WARRINGTON was shifted yesterday from the United States ship *Java* to the Delaware of 80 guns, Captain C. W. SKINNER, the receiving ship at this port.—*Ibid*, February 15.

The U. S. frigate *United States*, Captain Kearny, from New York, arrived in Hampton Roads on Sunday night, and came up the next morning to the naval anchorage, when the usual salutes were exchanged.—*Ibid*, Feb. 18.

A. Chandler, Commissary General of the State, has made his report, in which he states that, among the warlike implements of the State, are 260 brass cannon, 287 iron do., 49,016 muskets, 2,888 rifles, 1,134 carbines, 683 pair of pistols, 2,125 swords, &c. The city arsenal is reported to be in a dilapidated condition, and to require immediate repair.—*N. Y. American*.

From the *N. Y. Commercial Advertiser*.

NEW BRUNSWICK.—We have before us the *St. John Gazette* of January 30th, containing the speech of Sir John Harvey at the opening of the Parliament of New Brunswick. It contains, however, very little that can be interesting to readers in this country.

Sir John felicitates the members on the prosperous condition of the province, and compliments them upon the fixed and loyal determination of the inhabitants to maintain the connexion with the mother country. The trade of the province, and consequently its financial affairs, are flourishing beyond all former precedent. The increased expenditure of last year, caused by the boundary troubles, has been wholly met by a corresponding increase of revenue.

The Lieutenant Governor informs the Parliament that measures are in progress for a canal to connect the bay of Fundy and the gulf of St. Lawrence. Some of the frontier battalions of militia have received a certain degree of training, in view of possible future contingencies, and for a portion of the militia force suitable uniform clothing has been provided.

The only allusion to the boundary dispute is that made in the following paragraph:—

"I'll not conclude this address without expressing to you the confident expectation which I entertain, that the result of the exploration of certain parts of the disputed territory which has been made by commissioners appointed by her Majesty for that purpose, will enable her Majesty's Government to advance such propositions to that of the United States, as the basis of the settlement of the momentous question involved, as must lead to its early, amicable and final adjustment. In the mean time I would express my hope that sentiments of moderation and forbearance may prevail on either side."

THE NORTHEASTERN BOUNDARY.—The Portland Advertiser states, on the authority of Gen. Varnum, that the barracks at the Portage Road, near the head of Temiscouta Lake, are now occupied by two hundred British troops of the eleventh regiment, commanded by Maj. Chamley. The barracks are two stories high, sufficient to quarter from 400 to 900 men. The British have also built a large guard house, besides officers' quarters, engineers' quarters, storehouses, a large cook house—the buildings thus erected being eight in number. They have also commenced building a stockade, 200 or 300 feet of which are complete, to enclose the whole of the above mentioned buildings. During the present season, they have built barracks near the foot of the lake, on the southerly side of the Madawaska river, sufficient to quarter from 200 to 300 men, where

eight men are stationed. They have further fitted a new two story house for barracks, about twelve miles below the mouth of the Madawaska, on the southerly side of St. John's river, sufficient for quartering from 150 to 200 men; in taking care of which from one to three men are employed.

AN ELOQUENT MEMORIAL.—Among the memorials recently presented to Congress, we perceive one from Mrs. Mary W. Thompson, widow of Alexander R. Thompson, late Lieutenant Colonel in the army of the United States. We have been furnished with a copy of the memorial, which contains an eloquent biographical sketch of the deceased, who entered the army as a lieutenant, in 1812, and first fleshed his maiden sword at Plattsburg. His subsequent military life was ever in active and ardent service. He was at different times engaged in almost every variety of the public service, and at every distant point where service has been rendered, from Lake Superior to the frontiers of Mexico, and the Capes of Florida. He fell, as the reader will remember, bravely fighting at the head of his command, in the Florida war; and his widow, who has ever accompanied him in all but one of his campaigns, during twenty-seven years, now appeals to Congress for compensation for many and various extra services performed by her lamented husband. It is hoped that the prayer will not be in vain.—*N. Y. Com. Advertiser.*

ATTEMPT AT REVOLT AND PIRACY.—Yesterday three men, named Wm. Robertson, Nath'l. Danfield and James Buckles, were brought by the U. S. marshal from on board the U. S. brig Boxer, charged with an attempt at revolt and piracy on board the brig Despatch, off Rio Janeiro. The plan of these prisoners was to induce the crew to rise upon the captain and officers, murder them, run away with the brig, and commence piracy. Their design was frustrated before it could be put into execution, and the criminals were delivered over to the commander of the Boxer to be brought home for trial. They were briefly examined and then committed to prison.—*N. Y. Express.*

GREAT BRITAIN AND AMERICAN WHALERS.—Captain Butler of the ship Pacific, arrived yesterday, states that he was informed by the inhabitants at King George's Sound that the ship Tuscaloosa, of this port, Capt. Hussey, went in June last into Two People's Bay for the purpose of taking whales. While there, H. B. M. ship of war Herald came in, and ordered Capt. Hussey to leave, threatening to sink him, or send a shot through his boats, unless he got under weigh in twenty-four hours. Capt. Butler further states that the inhabitants of Swan and Hobart Town had petitioned for a man of war to be stationed on the coast to prevent American ships from whaling in the neighboring waters, and to drive them from their bays.—*New Bedford Register.*

Extract of a letter from Montevideo, Dec. 20, received by the barque Drymo at this port, nearly a month later than our previous advices:

"The political state of things remains the same, but according to the preparations on foot, it is expected that our President will attack the enemy, and that there will be a battle before many days elapse. As to the result, it is impossible to make any calculation or venture an opinion.

"By a late arrival from Rio Janeiro, we have just heard of the arrival there of the new French Admiral who is to succeed the present one on the blockade of Buenos Ayres, and he is expected here very soon.—Whether this is to have any influence in bringing about a settlement of their differences, time only can reveal."

By the brig Arabian, at Charleston, which left Rio Janeiro on the 12th of December, we learn that the

French fleet, consisting of sixteen sail, had all arrived there, and would sail in about ten days for Buenos Ayres, to commence operations against the nation.—*Boston Daily Advertiser.*

NEW ATLANTIC STEAM SHIP.—The United States, intended as a companion to the Liverpool, the property of the Trans-atlantic Steam Ship Company, is nearly ready for launching. She will, it is expected, take her place in the line to New York, on the 29th of April.

HALIFAX STEAMERS.—Mr. Cunard's line of steam ships between Liverpool, Halifax, and Boston, will commence plying in the month of May. These steamers will keep up a communication, once in a fortnight, between Europe and America.

STEAM VESSELS OF WAR.—Her Majesty's steamer Rhadamanthus is arrived from Vourla. We had to notice, a short time ago, the extraordinary swiftness of Her Majesty's steam frigate Hydra, and we have now to remark that the passage made by the Acheron steamer, Lieut. Kennedy commanding, on her last voyage from Gibraltar, was probably more extraordinary than that made by the Hydra, she having ran from the rock to Malta in four days and eight hours, thus going at the rate of two hundred miles per day.

The Grand Seigneur has made a present to his Royal Highness the Prince of Joinville, of three superb swords, two pipe mouth-pieces adorned with brilliants, and of rare beauty, several horses, and various other costly objects.—*London Courier.*

LIBRARIES FOR SEAMEN.—The British Lords of Admiralty have ordered a small library to be placed on board every commissioned vessel in Her Majesty's Navy. Most of the vessels have been already furnished, the selection being chiefly made from the volumes of the British Religious Tract Society.

A letter from Havana, dated January 24th, informs us that Commander W. A. Spencer has been compelled by indisposition, to resign the command of the sloop of war Warren, to which Lieutenant Stephen B. Wilson has succeeded. Captain Spencer found his health so much impaired that he was obliged to ask for a medical examination, by three naval surgeons, who reported him "unfit for duty."—*N. Y. Com. Adv.*

FROM THE SANDWICH ISLANDS.—Extract of a letter received in New Bedford, dated Honolulu, July 27, 1839:

"We had an exciting time here week before last. The French frigate Artemise arrived here to demand satisfaction for sundry insults to French subjects in times past, beginning with the expulsion of the Catholics some years ago. The captain required \$20,000 to be deposited on board his ship, and free toleration for the Catholic religion throughout the islands, with other matters, and allowed 48 hours for his terms to be complied with; but as the King was absent, he extended the time six days for his return. The captain offered a refuge on board his ship for Americans or Englishmen, who would be endangered in case of hostilities, excepting those individuals who (said to be born in America) influenced the King in his government, or directed his councils, (meaning his missionaries.) We had a meeting of the residents to concert means for the safety of ourselves and property, and organized, with the sanction of the government here, as a force to repel all ill-disposed natives who might be disposed to plunder, &c. in case of war. Some apprehension was felt, although not serious fears, that the chiefs would not comply with the demands of France; however, it is all settled, and the French war over.—*New Bedford Gazette.*

Military Intelligence.

Medical Staff.—A medical Board was recently convened in Florida, for the examination of Assistant Surgeons for promotion, and candidates for admission into the army. Surgeons Maxwell, McDougall and McLaren, who had been promoted prior to the examination, and Assistant Surgeons Cuyler, Mills and McPhail, were examined and all found qualified for promotion. Dr. Thomas C. Madison, of Florida, was also examined, and found qualified for admission as Assistant Surgeon.

Feb. 15—Ass't Surgeon B. W. Woods, ordered to proceed in the direction of Fort Gibson, and relieve Ass't Surgeon J. Walker, now on duty with the 1st dragoons. On being relieved, Dr. Walker will repair to Fort Brooke, and report for duty.

Corps of Engineers.—Capt. J. G. Barnard, ordered to superintend the erection of fortifications on Grand Terre, Barrataria.

The name of William Smith, Captain in the Corps of Engineers, has been changed by an act of the Legislature of the State of New York, to that of William Davidson Fraser.

Topographical Engineers.—Lt. Col. Jas. Kearney—original entry into the service should be: "3d lt. 5th infy., April 11, 1813;" not "bt. capt. t. eng.," as stated in the Army Register.

2d Dragoons.—Capt. Townshend Dade and 1st Lt. Wm. Hardia have been cashiered by sentence of court martial. Sentences approved Feb. 17.

RECRUITING STATIONS.**GENERAL SERVICE.**

Lt. Col. J. H. Vose, 3d infy., Superintendent, N. Y.
Major G. Dearborn, 1st infy., com'g General depot, Fort Wood, Bedlow's Island, New York harbor.
Lieut. I. R. D. Burnett, 2d infy., Fort Wood, N. Y.
Major J. S. Nelson, 7th infy., com'g depot at Newport, Kentucky.
Capt. E. V. Sumner, 1st drag's, com'g Cavalry depot, Carlisle, Pa.
1st Lt. J. L. Donaldson, 1st arty., Boston.
2d Lt. W. Sherwood, 7th infy., Hartford, Conn.
Capt. E. Trenor, 1st drags., New York.
Capt. L. J. Beall, 2d drags., do.
Capt. P. H. Galt, 4th arty., do.
Capt. H. Bainbridge, 3d infy., do.
Capt. J. Green, 2d arty., Buffalo, N. Y.
1st Lt. R. H. Ross, 7th infy., Albany, N. Y.
1st Lt. M. L. Shackelford, 2d arty., Syracuse, N. Y.
1st Lt. H. C. Pratt, do., Utica, N. Y.
Bvt. Major W. M. Graham, 4th infy., Philadelphia.
1st Lt. R. H. West, 1st drags., do.
Capt. F. Lee, 7th infy., Pittsburgh.
Capt. S. Ringgold, 3d arty., Baltimore.
1st Lt. W. Chapman, 5th infy., Cumberland, Md.
Major J. S. Nelson, 7th infy., Newport, Ky.
1st Lt. A. Montgomery, 7th infy., Louisville, Ky.

REGIMENTAL SERVICE.

1st Lt. E. A. Capron, 1st arty., Plattsburgh, N. Y.
2d Lt. J. K. Dawson, do., Poughkeepsie, N. Y.
1st Lt. M. J. Burke, do., Troy, N. Y.
Capt. A. Lowd, 2d arty., Rochester, N. Y.
1st Lt. E. D. Townsend, do., Buffalo.
Capt. J. Munroe, 4th arty., Cleveland, O.
1st Lt. J. H. Miller, do., Detroit.
1st Lt. A. G. Blanchard, 3d infy., New Orleans.
1st Lt. Henry Prince, 4th infy., do.
Capt. W. R. Montgomery, 8th infy., Canandaigua, N. Y.
Capt. T. P. Gwynn, do., Richmond, Va.
1st Lt. L. O'Brien, do., Penn Yan, N. Y.
2d Lt. George Lincoln, do., Ithaca, N. Y.
1st Lt. J. T. Sprague, do., Albany, N. Y.

ARMY, NAVY, AND MARINE UNIFORMS.

JOHN SMITH, (late of West Point,) would respectfully beg leave to state to the officers of the above corps, that he has received from Washington City a copy of the new regulations, together with the drawing of the Topographical uniforms; and all orders for the same will be punctually attended to, and forwarded with despatch. July 18—tf

N. B. Embroidered Engineer belts, and all Military equipments furnished as usual, at 168 Pearl street, New York City.

NAVY.**ORDERS.**

Feb. 7—Professor J. H. Coffin, detached from Norfolk station.

Assist. Surgeon W. A. Nelson, navy yard, Norfolk.

8—Comm'r. W. Jamesson, command of ship Warren, now on the West India station.

11—Professor J. F. Girard, ship Decatur.

12—Acting Mid. E. Simpson, do.

13—P. Mid. W. A. Wayne, W. I. squadron.

15—Mid. B. N. Westcott, leave three months, having returned from the West Indies, sick.

18—Gunner Charles Wade, ordinary, New York.

Naval Intelligence.**OFFICERS OF NAVY YARDS, STATIONS, &c. PORTSMOUTH, N. H., FEB. 1, 1840.****NAVY YARD.**

Commodore Wm. M. Crane, Commandant; Commander John Collings Long, Lieut. George F. Pearson, Surgeon Charles Chase, Purser Nathaniel Wilson, Master Jacob Mull. Boatswains L. Gallagher, John Young, Gunner Richard F. Dunn, Sailmaker John Burdine.

Navy Agent John Loughton, Naval storekeeper Enoch B. Barnes, Naval Constructor Wm. M. Pook.

MARINE GUARD.

Bvt. Lieut. Col. Samuel E. Watson, commanding; 2d Lieut. A. S. Taylor.

U. S. VESSELS OF WAR REPORTED.

Frigate United States, Capt. Kearny, bound to Norfolk, was towed to sea on Thursday last, Feb. 13, by the steamboats Hercules and Statesman; and arrived in Hampton Roads on Sunday.

WEST INDIA SQUADRON.—Ship Warren, Lt. Com'dt. S. B. Wilson, at Matanzas, Jan. 14.

Ship Erie, Comm'r Taylor, at Vera Cruz, Jan. 20, to sail for Pensacola, via Tampico, about the 5th Feb.

REVENUE CUTTERS.—Hamilton, Capt. Sturgis, at Boston, Feb. 13, from a cruise.

McLane, Capt. Childs, at New Bedford, Feb. 11.

PASSENGERS.

CHARLESTON, Feb. 10, per steam packet Savannah, from Savannah, Capt. J. Tattnall, of the navy. Feb. 12, per steam packet Southerner, from St. Augustine, Acting Lieutenant A. Murray, and Lieut. J. A. Davis, of the navy. Feb. 14, per steamer Gen. Clinch, from Black creek, Dr. W. J. Sloan, of the army.

SAVANNAH, Feb. 13, per steamboat Gen. Clinch, from Black Creek, Capt. J. Mackay and Lieut. J. H. Simpson, of the army, and Mrs. Simpson.

NEW YORK, Feb. 10, per ship Shakspeare, for New Orleans, Surgeon N. S. Jarvis, of the army. Per ship Charles Carroll, for Havre, Capt. A. J. Swift, of the U. S. Engineer Corps.

E. OWEN & Co.,**MILITARY AND NAVAL MERCHANT TAILORS,**

NEAR FULLER'S HOTEL, PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE,

BEG leave to inform their patrons of the Army and Navy, that they have made arrangements to receive, direct from London, gold and silver Epaulets, Embroidery, gold and silver Lace, and all the articles necessary for the equipment of officers for either service, of a very superior quality.

To the officers of the Corps of Topographical Engineers, they would respectfully state that they have at length succeeded in procuring complete sets of English embroidery for their Corps, the quality of which has been acknowledged by gentlemen of the Corps of unquestionable taste and judgment, to be the richest and rarest workmanship of the kind ever offered to the public.

Sept. 26—

PERIODICALS.

THOMAS R. HAMPTON, of the 3d Auditor's Office, is Agent for the Knickerbocker, Lady's Book, Lady's Companion, New World, Southern Literary Messenger, Democratic Review, Medico-Chirurgical Review, Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, besides nearly every other Medical, Literary, and Religious periodical extant. Orders addressed to him, post paid, will meet prompt attention. Jan. 30.—tf